



Attorney's Docket No. 8881-1A

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Fehring *et al.* Confirmation No.: 7387
Appl. No.: 09/660,948 Group Art Unit: 1742
Filed: September 9, 2000 Examiner: A. Wessman
For: ENHANCED BIOCOMPATIBLE IMPLANTS AND ALLOYS

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8x
3/14/02

March 5, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

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MAR 14 2002
TC 1700

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 5, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Specification:

On page 5, lines 20-25, please amend the paragraph as follows:

01 According to a first aspect of the invention, artificial implant components are formed of a biocompatible metal alloy having a hardness greater than about 40 Rc, a yield strength greater than about 120 Ksi, and a grain size finer than ASTM 10, and which is essentially free of carbide, nitride, and sigma particles. Preferably, the alloy is an essentially single-phase alloy, i.e., the alloy is essentially free of all second phase particles.

On page 9, lines 21-23, please amend the paragraph as follows:

02 Figure 15 schematically illustrates a precision laser inspection apparatus capable of identifying surface defects, of a size greater than 5 micrometers, on the articulating spherical surface of the ball components of joint implants; and